

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FBIS OKINAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 14386

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CH
SUBJECT: DEALING WITH HUPEH'S PROBLEMS

1. A HUPEH PROVINCIAL BROADCAST HAS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PLA IN CURRENT PROVINCIAL POLITICS AND HAS CONFIRMED THAT CENTRAL HAS DECIDED TO INTERVEVE AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH FACTIONALISM. AT A DECEMBER 6 WUHAN RALLY, A LARGE GATHERING OF PARTY AND MILITARY OFFICIALS CONVEYED CENTRAL INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNED SPECIFICALLY WITH BRINGING ORDER TO HUPEH. ALTHOUGH THE RALLY WAS OSTNSIBILY HEADED BY CCP FIRST SECRETARY CHAO HSIN-CHU, WUHAN MR COMMANDER YANG TE-CHIH WAS CLEARLY IN THE LIMELIGHT AS HE RELAYED THE CONTENTS OF THE CENTRAL REPORT. YANG NOTED THAT THE "PARTY CENTER AND CHAIRMAN HUA WERE EXTREMELY CONCERNED FOR HUPEH", AND THAT THE PEKING SESSION WAS HELD FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING METHODS OF "EXPOSING AND CRITICIZING THE "GANG OF FOUR" IN THE PROVINCE.

2. FUTHER INDICATIONS OF THE MILITARY'S INCREASED ROLE IN HUPEH CAME WHEN CHAO SPECIFICALLY WELCOMED CCP SECRETARY CHANG YU-HUA UPON HIS RETURN TO WORK IN THE PROVINCIAL CCP COMMITTEE.,
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"THEREBY STRENGTHENING ITS LEADERSHIP". CHANG HAD BEEN MR

DEPUTY POLITICAL COMMISSAR AND PARTY SECRETARY THERE FOR MANY YEARS AND PRESUMABLY LOST HIS PARTY POST IN APRIL WHEN HE BEGAN APPEARING ONLY WITH MILITARY GROUPS AND NOT WITH PARTY MEN. HIS PUBLIC RE-INSTATMENT TO PARTY POSITION WILL SERVE TO BOOST THE MILITARY'S INFLUENCE IN PROVINCIAL PARTY AFFAIRS.

3. BOTH YANG AND CHAO STRESSED THAT THE PURGED POLITIBURO FIGURES EXERTED CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN THE PROVINCE AND NOTED THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF THE GAN'S FOLLOWERS IN HUPEH. NEITHER LEADERS, HOWEVER PUT FORTH A SCHEME FOR DEALING WITH THE OFFENDERS AND SEEMED MERELY TO REITERATE CENTRAL'S DICHOTOMOUS POLICY OF DEALING "RESOLUTE BLOWS AT THE REMNANT POISON OF THE "GANG WHILE STILL REMAINING LENIENT TOWARD THOSE WHO REPENT (HK 13843). PURGES WITHIN HUPEH'S LEADERSHIP RANKS DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE AS THERE WERE NO NOTABLE ABSENCES AMONG THE GROUPS REPRESENTED AT THE RALLY. NEVERTHELESS, THERE HAVE BEEN REFERENCES TO A HUNAN CONNECTION WHO COLLEDED WITH ELEMENTS IN HUPEH, WHICH MAY LEAD TO FAIRLY LIMITED PURGES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. ALTHOUGH CENTRAL HAS DECIDED TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY IN THE AFFAIRS OF A NUMBER OF PROVINCES, APPARENTLY NO CLEARCUT GUIDANCE FOR DEALING WITH FACTIONAL ELEMENTS HAS YET BEEN SET DOWN. ONLY WHERE THE SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED TO THE LEVEL OF ANARCHY AS IN FUKIEN HAS CENTRAL ACTED BY CALLING IN THE PLA TO RESTORE ORDER (HK 13663). HOWEVER, THE INCREASED STATURE OF THE PLA IN HUPEH MAY BE A SIGNAL TO DISRUPTIVE ELEMENTS THAT GROWING MILITARY AUTHORITY AND PERHAPS EVERY INTERVENTION ARE DISTINCTLY POSSIBLE.

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